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For the Proprietor of
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
Printed and Published
at the
SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, LTD.
HONGKONG

Dine
At the



VOL. II NO. 373

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1947.

Price 20 Cents

BIG FOUR CONFERENCE BREAKS DOWN

Postponed Indefinitely

"IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY PRACTICAL PROGRESS"

London, Dec. 15.—The Council of Foreign Ministers tonight adjourned indefinitely. The Big Four's decision to adjourn indefinitely came after their longest session of the present Conference. The Foreign Ministers' deputies, however, will meet tomorrow.

Mr. George Marshall (United States) proposed the adjournment at the end of today's meeting. This was generally believed to have been the "show-down" session after last Friday's bitter discussions over German reparations. Mr. V. Molotov (Russia) had put forward new Russian proposals for solving the problem of the Austrian peace treaty. Russia would take two-thirds of the oil production of the territory of eastern Austria instead of 90 per cent now claimed as German asset. He also proposed that the Council of Foreign Ministers should hear the delegates from the "German People's Congress" in Berlin. This was not agreed by the other Ministers.

The breakdown of the London Conference came suddenly and dramatically with the problem of Germany's future still unsolved and only half their agenda completed in 17 meetings. The conference foundered on the rock of reparations, all the western powers opposing the Russian claim for payment from current German production.

When it became obvious tonight after the longest meeting that Mr. Molotov had no acceptable new proposals to make, Mr. Marshall proposed the adjournment. "Russia alone refuses to agree," Mr. Marshall declared. "No useful purpose can, therefore, be served by continuing the conference." Mr. Bevin, after a long review of the British stand, said: "History will be our witness. . . . I now wonder whether the Council of Foreign Ministers will ever be able to settle the European and German problem."

After the western Ministers had turned down Mr. Molotov's request that a 17-man delegation from the Communist-sponsored German People's Congress should be heard, Mr. Marshall brought the conference back to reparations.

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE
He said: "We have reached quite evidently a fundamental difference regarding the question of reparations. Mr. Molotov's last statement seemed to be a repetition of the statements which we largely felt were without foundation."

"We have failed to reach an agreement on the treaty for Austria because the Soviet Union has demanded for itself properties and special privileges in Austria in amount and to the extent which far exceed any rightful claim and, if the Soviet claims were admitted, it would be at the price of Austria's independence."

After declaring that a large part of the products of eastern Germany

was drawn off for German account, Mr. Marshall added that the Soviet Union's demands for reparations for itself and Poland were utterly impossible of achievement on practical economic grounds. It was clear that an agreement could only be reached under conditions which would not only enslave the German people, but would seriously retard the recovery of all Europe.

"It seems impossible at this time to make any practical progress," Mr. Marshall said. "I, therefore, reluctantly conclude that no useful purpose would be served by debate on other points on our agenda, and I suggest that the Council of Foreign Ministers might now consider adjournment of this session."

MOLOTOV'S ASSERTION

Mr. Molotov said that it was clear that Mr. Bevin and Mr. Marshall were acting "according to one plan." Neither, he said, had followed the agenda and both had ignored the Soviet proposals.

He said that the French delegation had not disputed what the other two had said. It was apparent, Mr. Molotov said, that the three delegations had taken up a common front against reparations for the Soviet Union.

On adjournment Mr. Molotov said: "A decision to act in the same unilateral manner as before." As the other three delegations are agreed on adjournment, the Soviet delegation will also have to agree. But it

was their own responsibility, Mr. Molotov said.

"The Soviet Government cannot be spoken to in the same way as the present Greek Government," Mr. Molotov concluded by saying that the problems before the Council were solvable if the views of all its members were taken into account.

Early in tonight's fatal session, Mr. Marshall flatly rejected Mr. Molotov's declaration last Friday that reparations should be taken from current German production.

UNACCEPTABLE

The United States delegate was bringing the conference back to the question of reparations after Mr. Molotov had started today's meeting with an attempt to divert attention by asking his colleagues to discuss the request of the "German People's Congress" to be heard by the Big Four.

(Britain had refused to grant visas for the 17-man delegation from this Communist-sponsored Congress.)

Mr. Marshall said that this request was not acceptable, nor was the matter on the Conference agenda.

Mr. Georges Bidault (France) said that the Congress in no way represented the German people.

Mr. Bevin said that the proposal was not acceptable to him either, and then from the Chair called the Conference back to the question of German reparations.

NO AGREEMENT

Mr. Marshall said: "We have reached quite evidently a fundamental difference regarding the question of reparations. Mr. Molotov's last statement seemed to me a repetition of statements which we largely felt were without foundation."

"We have failed to reach agreement on the treaty for Austria because the Soviet Union has demanded for itself properties and special privileges in Austria in amount and to the extent which far exceed any rightful claim and which far exceeded what free Austria can afford."

"If the Soviet claims were admitted, it would be at the price of Austria's independence and in violation of past agreement."

"The Soviet Union has refused to furnish vitally necessary information with respect to reparations' removals. Thus, we have been asked to reach an agreement while information essential to such agreement is withheld by the Soviet representatives."

Mr. Marshall said that the Soviet delegation had refused to agree to relinquishment of property interests in Germany "unilaterally seized under the guise of reparations."

As matters now stood a large share of the produce of eastern Germany was drawn off for Soviet account.

GIGANTIC TRUST

"An important part of its industry has been placed in a gigantic Soviet trust which enjoys special privilege and which is put above German law, presumably in perpetuity," Mr. Marshall said.

"These Soviet practices in eastern Germany have prevented Germany from playing its part in the recovery of Europe."

Four Meet Their Deaths In Ships' Collision

New York, Dec. 16.—At least four persons were killed and several reported missing early today after a collision between two tankers off Curacao, Dutch West Indies.

Dispatches from Willemstad, Curacao, said both ships were afloat and that the count of the dead and missing was being compiled as victims were being landed.

The Argentine tanker Los Pezos and the Venezuelan tanker Tucupita collided in Curacao Bay. The British motorship San Eliseo was standing by.

The Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corporation, owners of the ocean-going tug Killerin, which ran aground about one mile off Morant Point, Jamaica, said the vessel was in no danger.—Associated Press.

Repayment Of Internment Advances Queried

London, Dec. 15.—The feeling in Shanghai against the repayment of the £1 a week allowed to British subjects in Shanghai while interned during the war was referred to in the House of Commons today by Mr. Edward Teeling, Conservative.

Interim Aid Approved

Washington, Dec. 15.—The House of Representatives today passed the final version of the \$307,000,000 interim aid bill for Europe and China, which now goes to President Truman for signature.

The Senate also approved by a unanimous vote today the final version of the interim aid bill as approved by a Senate-House of Representatives conference.

Mild objections to the inclusion of China were voiced in the Senate before the bill was voted by Senators Styles Bridges (Republican) and Claude Pepper (Democrat).—Reuter.

U. S. Telegraph Workers May Strike

Washington, Dec. 15.—A pre-Christmas strike of 50,000 American telegraph workers was threatened today by leaders of three trade unions.

The preliminary results of a nation-wide ballot, they said, showed a vote of 10-1 in favour of a strike to support union demands for a 15 percent wage increase.

The unions, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, represent workers throughout the United States, except in New York City.

In New York, the representatives of the American Communications Association—affiliated to the Congress of Industrial Organizations—voted yesterday to call out employees of three major cable firms on New Year's Day if new contracts were not negotiated by December 31.

Wage Issue Deadlock
The three unions involved—the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, the Telegraph Employees' Union, and the Telegraph Workers' Union—called off a threatened strike last spring when the Western Union Company granted five cents an hour wage increase and the equivalent of "closed shop."

An agreement permitted the unions to reopen the wage issue in October. This was done but a deadlock ensued.

A union spokesman said that 2,500 workers of the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, the Commercial Cables Company and the Cables Division of Western Union would be affected.—Reuter.

Stimulating Siam's Rice Production

Washington, Dec. 16.—The UNO Food and Agriculture Organisation is launching an attempt to stimulate rice production in Siam as part of its efforts to meet the world food shortages.

On the request of the Siamese Government, an international mission under the FAO's direction will go to Siam in January, hopeful of restoring the rice production there to pre-war levels which approximated 5,000,000 metric tons annually.—Associated Press.

He asked why over 500 of these notices had been issued and why the money could not be recovered as reparations from the Japanese in the peace treaty.

Mr. Christopher Mayhew, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the notices requested the refund of advances made by the protecting power as a charge on British funds against undertakings to repay.

A concession rate of £2 per person was adopted though the cost to public funds at its highest was about £25 a month.

There was no intention of pressing for repayment where hardship would be caused.

The fact of internment by itself did not, in the opinion of the Government, constitute grounds for a claim against an enemy belligerent.

Many of the internees associated with large firms had had their salaries paid throughout the war. The scheme had worked well. Large numbers had paid up and large numbers had been exempted.—Reuter.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION

London, Dec. 15.—The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Arthur Creech Jones, today attended the renaming ceremony of the 1,200-ton ship John Biscoe, which, on Thursday, will sail for the Falkland Islands with a party of 25 scientists and their assistants.

The expedition belongs to the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, established in 1943, to explore the snow-bound islands and Antarctic mainland.

Formerly a naval vessel, the John Biscoe has had her broad bow and wooden hull specially strengthened and is equipped with quicklifting winches for journeying through pack ice to reach the British meteorological stations in the Antarctic.

Men have volunteered for one or two years' exile in the world's most isolated weather stations where they will relieve others who have already completed their time at points scattered hundreds of miles apart in the Antarctic and Grahamsland.—Reuter.

British Bantamweight Retains Title

Manchester, Dec. 15.—Peter Kane retained his bantamweight title by outpointing Joe Cornelius of Belgium over 15 rounds here tonight.

Kane seemed to use the earlier rounds for sizing up his opponent whom he had outpointed over a shorter distance in a non-title fight earlier this year.

Once or twice the Belgian was warned for not hitting with a closed glove but often Cornelius with skilful use of his left lead had Kane guessing.

Cornelius covered up cleverly to evade Kane's best punches and was always willing to come back after Kane had a bout of attacking.

In fact the Belgian's counter-punching after taking blows that threatened damage, amazed the crowd who warmly applauded Cornelius.

As the fight progressed, however, there was little doubt that Kane was ahead on points and always

British Forces Evacuating 3 Jewish Areas

Jerusalem, Dec. 15.—British forces are expected to have completed their scheduled withdrawal from the Jewish areas of Tel-Aviv, Ramat Gan and Petah Tivrah by midnight tonight, it was officially stated here.

A 500-strong force of Jewish civil guard—the Mishmar Haam—will begin taking over security duties tomorrow in this area, a quadrangle in which roughly two-thirds of the Palestine Jewish population lives.

This Jewish force will also be responsible for policing five Arab villages, with a population of 5,000 in the area.

A solitary British armoured car is guarding the former security stronghold at Safra, on Tel-Aviv's boundaries, most British police having already withdrawn to the "No Man's Land" between Tel-Aviv and Arab Jaffa.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew in this restful area between the two cities is still being enforced by British troops.

BAZAAR RUMOURS

The rumours sweeping the bazaars of Jerusalem's Old City today reported the secret return to Palestine of Abdul Khader Husseini, a kinsman of the exiled Mufti and a former Arab guerrilla leader in the 1937 disturbances.

He was seen, the rumours said, to organise active Arab resistance to the partition of the country.

A Transjordan Frontier Force car was blown up and an Arab trooper wounded near Mustafah police station, eastern Jerusalem, today.

An official report stated that a sergeant and a trooper—both Arabs—of the Frontier Force were wounded when grenades were thrown and automatic fire directed at two Transjordan Frontier Force vehicles in eastern Jerusalem, one of the vehicles being burnt out.

One Arab was killed and seven others wounded when four Jews, wearing British Army uniforms, bolted to be Irgun Zvai Leumi terrorists attacked an Arab bus with grenades, automatic weapons and Molotov "cocktails" near Lydda Airport today.

Earlier today, it was reported from Tel-Aviv that a Jewish settlement police convoy guard was killed by an Arab sniper near two Jewish colonies in Upper Galilee.

HAGANAH CLAIM

The Jewish defence organisation, Haganah, claimed today to have destroyed an Arab forward defence position and to have inflicted casualties when gun duels between Arabs and Jews south of Holon, in the Jaffa district, were renewed this morning.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Jewish Agency announced today that the demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Arab Legion, if not from all Palestine, then to Arab areas in the Holy Land, will be made by its representatives in Jerusalem, London and Washington within the next 24 hours, following the killing yesterday by Arab Legion troops of 12 Jews and the wounding of 10 others.

From Cairo, Reuter reports that Arab League leaders, including the Secretary-General, Azzam Pasha, and the Mufti of Jerusalem, met there for two hours to-day. The delegates declined to make any statement after the meeting, from which the Premiers of Transjordan and Iraq were absent.—Reuter.

Saar Constitution

Paris, Dec. 15.—The Saar Consultative Assembly today adopted unanimously, minus one Communist vote, all the clauses of the agreement with France under which the new constitution of the Saar territory comes into effect. It was reported here.—Reuter.

fighting back when Kane tried to crowd the Belgian. There were really no heavy blows landed, however, but in the ninth Kane really shook Cornelius with a right uppercut and in the tenth Kane was fighting better than

though he was still unable to force his way through the Belgian's guard. In the last few rounds, however, Kane was more successful and landed several times with both hands.

In the fourteenth he landed three times with his left and Cornelius appeared worried but he lasted out the fifteenth round by the effective use of long lefts which poked into Kane's face.

In another fight here, Jackie Paterson, world, British Empire and British flyweight champion, beat Al Chavez, Mexican-American from California, on points over ten rounds.

Both men weighed in at eight stone four pounds.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

H.K. And The Rice Ban

HONGKONG cannot fail to take notice of two important announcements concerning rice made during the last few days. The first disclosed that the Macao authorities have agreed to Mr. T. V. Soong's suggestion to impose a ban on the export of rice to Hongkong; the second revealed that the world's rice harvest for 1947-48, while materially greater than last year, will still fall well below the pre-war average. A third report, which has not yet been publicly admitted, but is being whispered in Canton as well as Hongkong, is that Kwangtung faces a rice famine next year because of poor crops. Here there are three influences which will probably have some effect on the Colony's rice supplies in 1948. The Macao ban is probably prompted by the threat of shortages in Kwangtung and can be interpreted as an endeavour to consolidate the anti-smuggling agreement between Hongkong and China. It is clear Mr. Soong considers that the clandestine export of rice is one of his major administrative problems, and that he is making its prevention a prime objective. This is understandable and Mr. Soong will not lack sympathy in his mission, more especially if he can simultaneously carry out other measures which will help to bring stability to our near neighbours. The difficulty which confronts both the Canton and

Macao governments is the implementation of the rice export edict, for, as is well known, the pernicious Chinese merchant is skilled in the ways of avoiding restrictions and prohibitions, especially when the return for the risks is a commensurate market. There is no suggestion that Hongkong has been officially approached about the Macao ban and presumably Canton is taking the Colony's co-operation for granted. It needs to be stressed, however, that first and principal responsibility for the prevention of smuggling out of Kwangtung rests with the Chinese administration. We cannot be expected to carry out the whole of Canton's preventive work, and it is only reasonable for the Kwangtung government to satisfy us that its share is contributing its maximum. It is also fair to remind Canton that much of the "free market" rice in Hongkong helps our Chinese population to keep above a subsistence level which they would otherwise have to suffer if dependent solely on the rations which are eked out from the allocations of the International Emergency Food Council. If that market became completely suspended, it would benefit Kwangtung but little and would injure the Colony's 2,000,000 population considerably. If there are to be sacrifices and concessions they should not be one-sided.

(Continued on Page 4)

SHOWING
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The most significant story of our time
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NEXT CHANGE

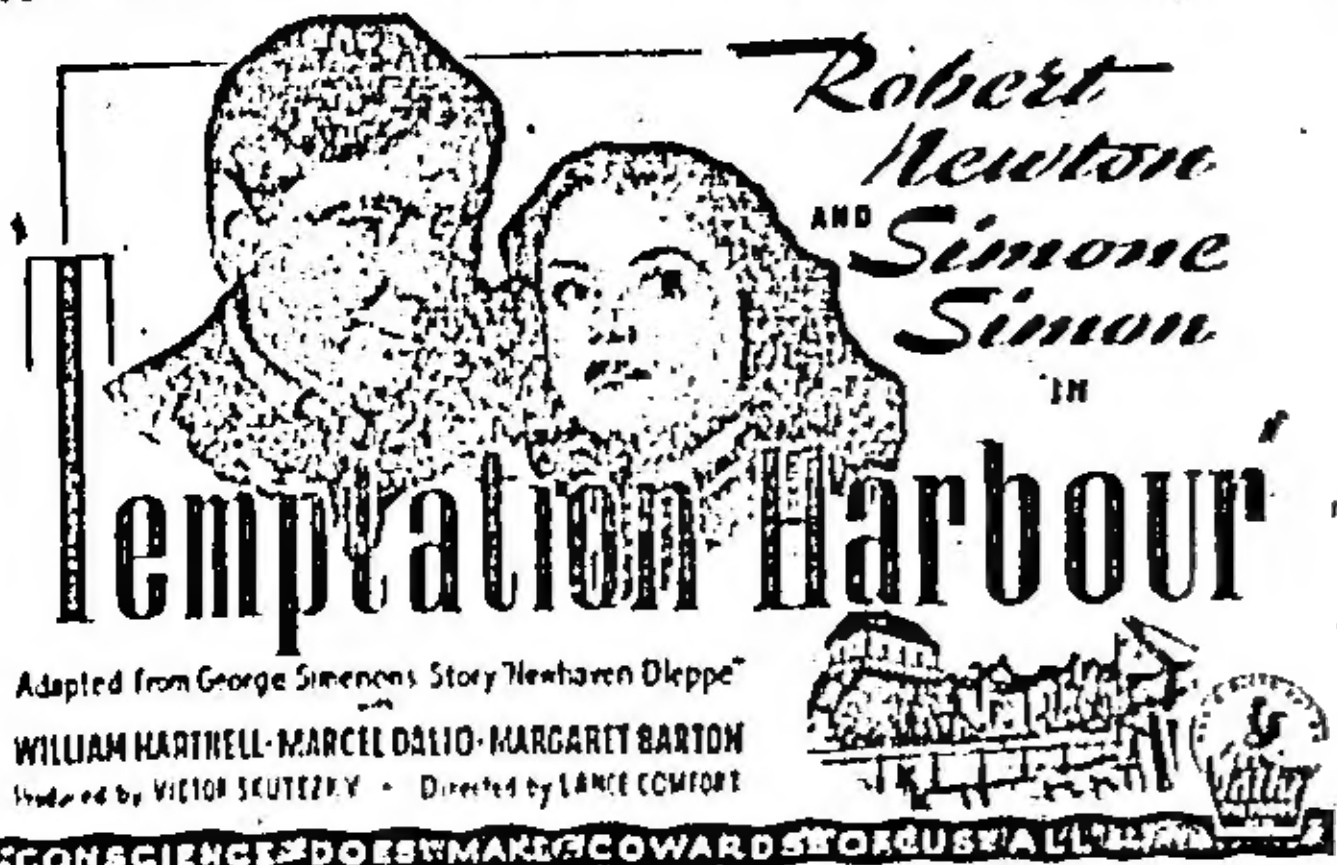
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A NEW WARNER SENSATION!

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THE IMPERISHABLE STORY OF HISTORY'S MOST COLOURFUL
HERO ... LEADING HIS FIGHTING LEGIONS!

Errol FLYNN • Olivia De HAVILLAND in

"THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON"

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

If there is one thing to be
learned from the recent
sheepdog trials at Maclefield,
it is that somewhere among
the competitors were the dogs
that will be entered for the
qualifying trials for the Inter-
national Trials at Cardiff.

I need hardly say that I mean
nothing offensive in this. If the
squamous do not like it, I suggest
that they should try to put them-
selves in my position.

A dementi

INTERVIEWED, Mimic Slop-
corner said, "Mr. Grampound
and I are just good friends. I
admire the work he has done for
Sopping Overcoat, particularly the
opening of the model railway in
the old brewery yard, and the
aluminum pump in the tomato-
market."

"It is true he sent me some
flowers, but that was because the
bouquet my secretary had ordered
to be sent to the Town Clerk for
presentation to me was eaten by

a goat behind the Corn Exchange.
My career will always come first
with me. My future plans? Next
week I am to be Miss Ab-
scentism at Buckleworth."

Little Bo-Pest

"Dad-dy, why are all the cryp-
to-Com-mun-ists in the House of
Com-mons look-ing so mis-er-able?"

"They made ra-ther a mess of
their or-ders the oth-er day, boy."

"Whose or-ders?"

"Well — they — that is — you
see —"

"Their con-silt-u-ents' or-ders
dad-dy?"

"No. Not quite. You see, their
or-ders come from—well—oh, go
to bed, boy."

I don't see why

DR STRABISMUS (Whom God
Preserve) of Utrecht has in-
vented a waterproof trouserpress,
for pressing trousers under water.
It was tested by a waterproof
diviner with his little hazel twig.
Every time he came near a water-
proof trouserpress, the twig jump-
ed out of his hand.



MOTHER NATURE'S JOKE

(Copyright in All Countries)

FAR EAST AND PACIFIC ROUND-UP

I HAD this letter from an
Anglo-Burman, an intelli-
gent graduate of Rangoon
University, that handsome Bri-
tish gift to the East:

"You will be surprised to
hear I am planning to leave
Burma and settle in Australia.
Things are getting worse
here and life will be unbearable
when power is fully transferred
to some men now in office."

I was surprised. This man is
better than half-Burman and
even as recently as May, when
I left Rangoon, he was full of
hope (as I was) for his country.

His letter continued: "The
ruling Burmans, with complete
freedom at hand, are doing
their utmost to make things
difficult for us so-called 'white
faces'. The Government is now
functioning behind two rows of
barbed-wire strung round the
secretariat after Aung San was
shot."

IN CONSTANT FEAR

"Ministers themselves are
living in constant fear. Each
has his own armed bodyguard,
which follows him everywhere.
Their homes, like the secre-
tariat, are enclosed with bar-
bed wire and constantly guarded
by members of the newly
formed Striking Force."

"Freedom of expression is
becoming a thing of the past.
One cannot criticise the Govern-
ment without risking—and the
risk is real—the active dis-
pleasure of Ministers."

HERE'S THE TRUTH ABOUT BURMA

Then came this comment
which will astonish Britons at
home: "Many of us, Govern-
ment as well as commercial, feel
we have been let down by the
British Government and are
resentful of the way in which
we have been treated."

DISCREET MOCKING

No, we still are not popular
in Burma. Even the tiny ad-
ministrative upper crust, riding
the country in late-model Bri-
tish saloons given them by
your Government, which is
propping up this Administra-
tion, mock discreetly Britain's
"waning" strength and influ-
ence. Meanwhile, the majority
of this peasant people live un-
easily from curfew to curfew,
and wonder what new terror
tomorrow holds for them.

Malaya I know little. Singapore,
as I've seen the three times I've
been there, is steadily improving.
There is more in the shops and
on the streets, and lessening dis-
content among European and Chinese
residents. Prices compared with
pre-war are high, as they are in Hong-
kong—but nowhere near as steep as
in Manila or Shanghai.

In Java, and nearby Islands,
where I've just spent a month,
are middle-of-the-roaders and
equally unpopular with Dutch and

INDONESIA

The Dutch at open-air
tables round the sprawling Des In-
des Hotel and exclusive Harmonie
Club across the road will tell you
over the fourth or fifth Bolt gin that
if the British troops Mountbatten
landed in Java late 1945 had "taken
a firm stand" there would be no
bother today with Indonesian "ex-
tremists." Maybe. But the current
feelings of those troops had also to
be taken into account.

MOUNTBATTEN'S JOB

Indonesian Republicans on nearby
verandahs are just as unwavering
in their belief that, but for the arrival
of the British, the Dutch today
would be out of Indonesia. Neither
the Dutch nor the Indonesians listen
when you venture reasonably that
Mountbatten's job was not to beat
down the Indonesians or restore the
Dutch, but simply to set free the
people interned during the war and
to disarm the Japanese troops.

The next stone both sides throw
at us is what they call British sup-
port of the smuggling trade with
Malaya. The Dutch claim this is
stealing the wealth of Sumatra and
Java, and the Indonesians wall to
Mahomed about the high prices they
must pay for the tawdry-trade goods
sneaked in as payment for the sea,
tobacco, spices, and other Indonesian
products that do beat the Dutch
blockade.

When you point out that the
smuggling is almost wholly that
of the Chinese adventure they retort that
Singapore authorities condone the

By LACHIE McDONALD

traffic, and isn't Singapore under
British rule.....?

Even in green Fiji, far out in the
Central Pacific, we have harsh critics
as well as many friends. Not least
among the critics are the planters,
who smart at memory of the pre-
ferential prices the British Food
Ministry paid the Philippines and
Ceylon for the copra that is Fiji's
main export.

"Trading one part of the Empire
against another," was what they
said about the higher price Ceylon
got for its copra: what they said
about the highest rate of all, that
paid in dollars to the Philippines, wouldn't
pass the office censor.

New Zealand and Australia are
always a relief. There may be policy
criticisms, and strikes that some-
times hold up food ships, but every-
where you meet good people an-
xious about the welfare of Britain
and eager to find new ways of
helping and new delicacies to in-
clude in the hundreds of thousands
of individual food parcels going to
all parts of the United Kingdom.

NORFOLK AND TONGA

Two places I almost forgot...two
of the happiest in the world. Nor-
folk Island, where there's no income
tax, plenty to eat, and many tall
pines on cliffs above the blue Pacific.
And Tonga, where no one can
starve, where even people without
a sixpence have red flowers in their
hair and songs to sing under the
palms. Britons at home are just a
dream to most people on Norfolk
and Tonga. Because they have not
been harried or hungry or cold
within human memory, they can
hardly imagine what the words
mean.

Yet restless young men on both
Norfolk and Tonga asked about jobs
in the outside world, and schoolgirls
sought pen friends in Britain.

BREAD-BASKET INTO DUST BOWL

• By ARTHUR WEBB

WASHINGTON.

A GRAVE crisis is developing in the United
States—the world's bread basket. Alarm-
ing reports are coming from the great
prairies that fed millions during past years.

For after seven autumns of abundance,
with record crops, farmers in the fertile, tree-
less plains of the Middle West are again
turning over the pages of "The Grapes of
Wrath," with its petrifying stories of how
hundreds of square miles became a great
deserted dustbowl.

They fear it is going to happen again.
Drought is drying up vast areas of Kansas,
while Oklahoma will be no green and pleasant
setting for a musical comedy unless rain falls
soon on its parched acres.

In Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado
and Texas, too, wheat growers are reading the
weather forecasts as avidly as they do the Chica-
go market reports, which tell how their recent
crops are changing hands for three dollars a
bushel.

They fear next year will be barren. Springs
are drying up; ploughed land cannot be seeded
and hovering over them is the threat of dust
storms like those in the "Thirties which took
top soil and scattered it over a score of States.

Then towns a thousand miles away were
covered with "black snow." The days became
as black as night as millions of tons were swept
from the farmlands.

While Sir John Orr was describing to the
World Food Council in Washington the break-
down of the system that served the world in
prewar days, the weather bureau in the Middle
West reiterated the monotonous and gloomy
refrain, "No rain."

That has been repeated daily since July.
And no rain means no wheat next year. It means
no bread next year for millions of Europeans
unless quick action is taken elsewhere.

Minor dust storms have already occurred in
some areas and, if they become general, valuable
seed that has already been sown in expectation
of rain will vanish with the soil.

Desolate Fields

THOUSANDS of farmers are looking at mile
after mile of dead grass that should be graz-
ing cattle and at desolate fields that this time last
year were green with the first shoots of the
winter wheat.

Modern methods of soil conservation—con-
tour planting, the growing of trees as wind
barriers, and the building of dams—may save
older farmers, but more than a million acres of
new land have been broken up during the past
few years by what are known as suitcase
farmers.

These speculators bought land during the
depression for five dollars an acre and during the
boom years have been making fortunes.

They moved in with great caterpillar trac-
tors pulling countless rows of ploughs and turn-
ed as much as one hundred acres an hour.

They were out for quick profits—and they
got them.

Today, however, their farmlands are the most
vulnerable to the duststorms because they ignored
all soil preservation lessons.

The storms could wipe out thou-
sands of farmers who have shared
some £7,000,000,000 this year—four
times what they would have made
after a good pre-war harvest.

Nightmares

NOW they are having nightmares.
For their security may vanish in
a cloud of dust. They may have to
cancel those unfulfilled orders for
new cars and new farm machinery.
It is not just a crisis affecting the
Middle West. It is one that can
involve half of the world. And it
would wreck the Marshall Plan.

Europe's millions in the bread
queues are unaware that their
present plight will be paradise to what
can follow the failure of America's
wheat crop next year.

Even if the rains come quickly
it is doubtful if the United States
will be able to export next year as
much as this year.

Hence immediate bold concerted
world action becomes vital. The
world cannot afford further delays
or half-measures.

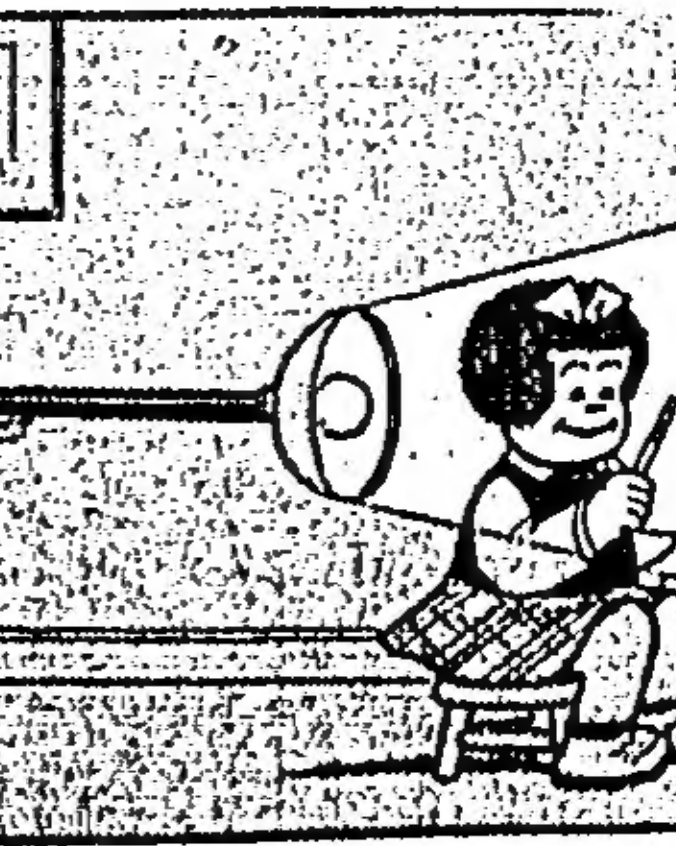
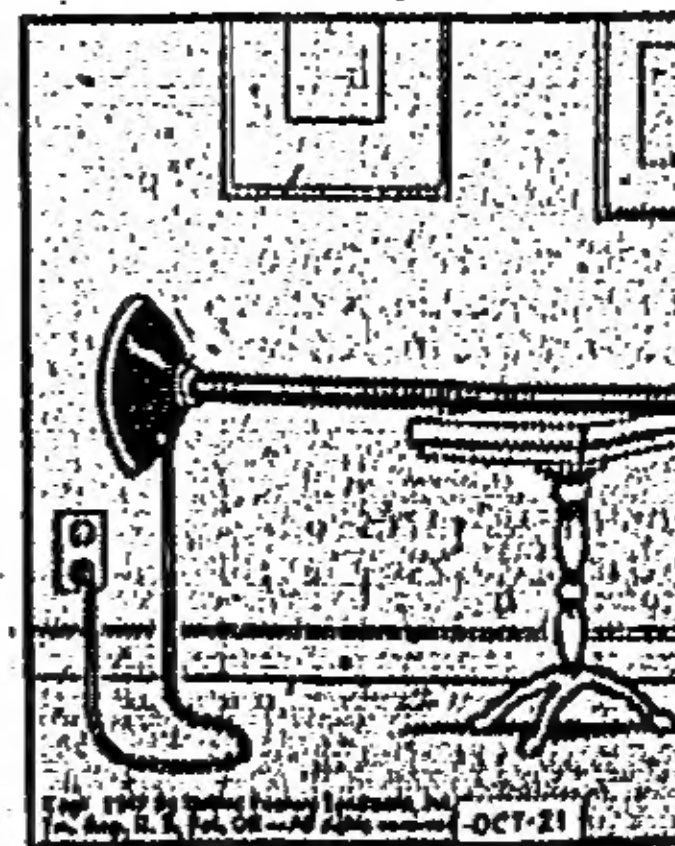
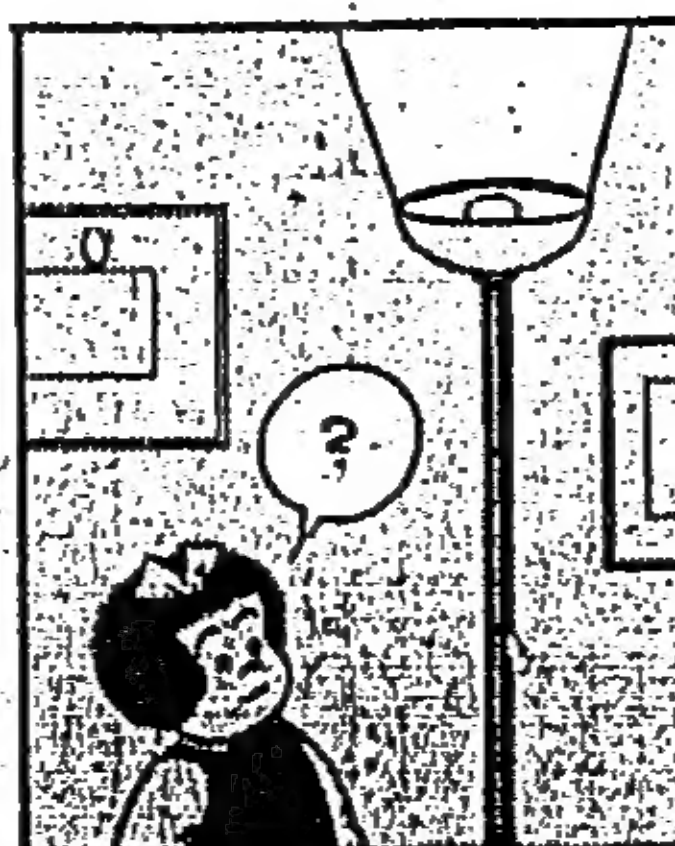
POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"I'm trying my best, Sir
'Enery, to persuade myself
a buffet's as good as a
banquet, but it's uphill
work!"

NANCY Why Not?

NANCY—GO IN AND
SEE THE NEW
TORCH LAMP
I BOUGHT



By Ernle Bushmiller



Printed and published by Frederick Percy Franklin for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.